

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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SUBJECT: SUDAN'S NUMAIRY CONCLUDES SUCCESSFUL BUT UNDRAMATIC
VISIT TO YAR

1. JA'AFAR NUMAIRY'S FOUR DAY VISIT TO YEMEN (SEPT 25-29)
ENDED MONDAY IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF MUTUAL GOODWILL WITH FIRMER
PROSPECTS FOR INCREASED ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL CONTACTS BETWEEN
THE TWO SIDES. IN ADDITION TO VISITING SANA, NUMAIRY AND YAR
COMMAND COUNCIL CHAIRMAN HAMDI MADE BRIEF VISIT TO OTHER LEADING
CITIES OF TAIZ AND HODEIDA.

2. ALTHOUGH NUMAIRY'S VISIT GENUINELY POPULAR AND
RECEIVED WITH CONSIDERABLE CEREMONY AND PUBLICITY, EVENT WAS
SOMEWHAT OVERSHADOWED BY THIRTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF YAR'S
REVOLUTION DAY CELEBRATED SEPT 25-27 AND WHICH NUMAIRY CAME
TO ATTEND. LEAD NEWSPAPER ARTICLES ALWAYS FEATURED NUMAIRY'S
VISIT, ALTHOUGH BULK OF PUBLIC'S ATTENTION FOCUSED ON TRADITIONAL
REVOLUTION DAY THEMES WITH DISTINCTLY DOMESTIC FOCUS AS IS
COMMON AT THESE ANNUAL FESTIVITIES.

3. WHAT NEW RELATIONSHIPS WILL DEVELOP BETWEEN SUDAN
AND YEMEN AS RESULT OF VISIT REMAIN TO BE SEEN.

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FIRST RESIDENT SUDANESE AMB ARRIVED SANA ONLY

FEW WEEKS PRIOR TO VISIT. JOINT COMMUNIQUE INDICATED NEW CULTURAL, ECONOMIC, AND TECHNICAL AGREEMENTS WERE CONCLUDED BY HAMDI AND NUMAIRY, BUT NO SPECIFIC PROJECTS ANNOUNCED. THE TWO LEADERS TOOK MIDDLE GROUND ON MEDEAST QUESTIONS AND CALLED FOR CONSULTATIONS AND RECONCILIATION BETWEEN EGYPT AND SYRIA.

4. A LARGER NUMBER OF SUDANESE ADVISORS ARE EXPECTED TO BE ASSIGNED TO YEMEN ESPECIALLY IN FIELDS OF GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND AGRICULTURE, TWO AREAS IN WHICH YARG BELIEVES SUDAN CAN BE OF GREATER ASSISTANCE. PAST AND CURRENT SUDANESE ADVISORS WITH IMF, ICAO, AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS HAVE GENERALLY HAD FAR MORE FAVORABLE IMPACT ON YARG OFFICIALS THAN MORE NUMEROUS EGYPTIAN COUNTER-PARTS.

5. ADDITIONALLY, SUDAN EXPECTED TO OFFER CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF UNIVERSITY AND TECHNICAL SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS TO YEMENI STUDENTS. EXPANSION OF TRADE BETWEEN YAR AND SUDAN ALSO ENVISIONED, BUT AS LEADING EXPORT OF BOTH COUNTRIES CURRENTLY COTTON, SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS THIS DIRECTION UNLIKELY.

6. SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS DURING NUMAIRY VISIT UNUSUALLY TIGHT IN PART TO FORESTALL ANY INCIPIENT COUP PLOTS AND IN PART TO PREVENT ANY INCIDENT DIRECTED AT NUMAIRY. MEMBERS OF SMALL SUDANESE COMMUNITY IN SANA AND HODEIDA--SOME OF WHOM BELIEVED TO HAVE ANTI-NUMAIRY LEANINGS--PLACED UNDER SURVEILLANCE ALTHOUGH NO ONE ARRESTED.

7. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH NUMAIRY VISIT WILL HAVE NO SUBSTANTIVE IMPACT ON TRADITIONALLY GOOD SUDANESE-YEMEN RELATIONS, VISIT USEFUL TO HAMDI IN SEVERAL WAYS. MOST IMPORTANTLY, VISIT PERMITTED HAMDI TO FURTHER EDGE YEMEN INTO REGIONAL POLITICS AND AWAY FROM EXCLUSIVELY ARABIAN PENINSULA ORIENTATION. IT IS FORUM FOR RITUAL COMMENT ON ARAB-ISRAELI SETTLEMENT ISSUES AND THIRD WORLD ISSUES. THIS IS REFLECTION OLD DESIRE TO "PUT YEMEN ON THE MAP". YEMEN ALSO CONCERNED WITH DEVELOPMENTS IN AFRICAN HORN AND VISIT AFFORDED YARG OPPORTUNITY TO IDENTIFY INTERESTS IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AREA WITH NUMAIRY REGIME WHICH IS VIEWED AS MODERATE COUNTERWEIGHT TO OTHERWISE RADICAL TREND IN ETHIOPIA, SOMALIA AND PDYR. AT SAME TIME, YARG AWARE OF CURRENT DEPENDENCE ON SAUDI AID AND ARAB TEACHERS AND ADVISORS DRAWN LARGELY FROM EGYPT. WHEREEVER POSSIBLE, YEMEN ATTEMPTING ENCOURAGE OTHER STATES AS WELL--LIKE SUDAN, JORDAY, AND IRAN--TO INCREASE OR PROVIDE AID PROGRAMS OR, AS IN CASE OF SUDAN TEACHERS, TECHNICAL ADVISORS, AND TRAINING FOR YEMENI

NATIONALS.
SCOTES

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